

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17316 291954Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001795 292228Z /73
R 291710Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5067
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

S E C R E T MOSCOW 17316

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MPOL, UR, XO
SUBJECT: SOVIETS ASK FOR FACILITIES IN DIEGO SUAREZ

REF: ANTANANARIVO 2119

1. AT WEEKLY QUADRIPARTITE AMBASSADORS' MEETING FRENCH AMBASSADOR INFORMED HIS THREE COLLEAGUES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE APPROACHED THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT ASKING FOR BASING PRIVILEGES AT DIEGO SUAREZ. THE REPLY OF THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT WAS NEGATIVE ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ITS POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR DID NOT KNOW WHEN OR WHERE THE APPROACH WAS MADE, BUT HE SPECULATED THAT THE SOVIET DESIRE FOR FACILITIES AT DIEGO DUAREZ WAS RELATED TO THE DEEPER WATER FACILITIES WHICH THAT PORT HAS AS COMPARED TO ADEN. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE HELD CLOSELY.

2. COMMENT: WITH NO OTHER INFORMATION THAN THE ABOVE WE STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT THE SOVIET APPROACH OCCURRED IN ANTANANARIVO AND WAS MADE BY AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH DURING HIS RECENT VISIT THERE (REFTEL). HIS VISIT TO THAT CAPITAL WAS UNUSUAL IN THAT IT IS NOT ONE OF
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THE MAJOR LITTORAL STATES TO WHICH TE SOVIETS WOULD ORDINARILY PAY THE COMPLIMENT OF A SPECIAL VISIT (MENDELEVICH'S STOPS IN TEHRAN AND DAR ES SALAAM ARE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE AS BRIEFING TRIPS). THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WAS DONE HERE IN MOSJOW IS SLIGHT BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT HIGH-LEVEL MALAGASY VISITORS AND BECAUSE THE SOVIETS ARE GENERALLY LOATHE

TO DO ANY BUSINESS, AND CERTAINLY NOT IMPORTANT
BUSINESS, THROUGH EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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